

*Denver & Rio Grande Western  
Railroad  
President: Gus B. Aydelott  
Denver Colorado  
Vice Pres: Holsman  
Local Freight office Traffic Mgr  
Cecil Pearson  
Knows Henry Helen of State  
Road Comm.*

G. B. Aydelott, president of Rio Grande Railroad, joined the firm as member of track gang the year after it went bankrupt: "It had nowhere to go but up." Mr. Aydelott keeps trim by walking to work.

## Business Portrait: G. B. Aydelott

# Running a Railroad: Lonely But Never Boring

Dawn has just touched Denver's eastern sky. The streets are empty.

In the gentle half-light a man strides down the street toward the Rio Grande Railroad's vintage building.

He punches the button in the elevator, rides to the sixth floor, unlocks his office door, flicks on the lights. It's 6:30 a.m. G. B. Aydelott, president of the Rio Grande, begins his work day.

He had walked the 2½ miles from his home and would walk back home that night. The only exception to this regimen is Saturday, when he drives to the office.

### Prepares Own Breakfast

In the next room, a table service is laid out. He will fix his own breakfast. At noon, he probably will lunch by himself. "Going 'up town' takes too much time."

Mr. Aydelott, known as "Gus" by friends and contacts and "Lonesome Polecat" by his staff, levers his foot upon the desk and talks about railroading and management.

Reflecting: "I've got the best job in the country. You can't

get bored. It's dynamic."

He was elected president of the railroad in 1956. Three months ago — with little fanfare — he was named chairman of the board. "It doesn't mean anything. I just conduct the meetings."

### Road was Bankrupt

The Rio Grande is relatively small road spanning the backbone of the Rockies from Denver to Salt Lake City, it has 3,600 employees, 800 of whom are in Utah. It was a very bankrupt road in 1935 a year before Mr. Aydelott joined it as member of a track gang.

And possibly it is this crucible that conditions his outlook today: "We were determined never to go bankrupt again."

His office is the same as occupied by the late Denver Judge Wilson McCarthy, company trustee from 1935 to 1947 and president until 1956.

The carpet was Judge McCarthy's. The desk was Judge McCarthy's and is in precisely the same spot it was when the judge sat behind it.

"Trouble with moving the desk is that it will show how

much the rest of the carpet has been worn."

### Only Pictures Changed

The only thing that has changed are the pictures on the wall. The judge liked Western scenes. Mr. Aydelott, after a few years of contemplating "diesels going through the canyon" switched to reproduction of Feininger and Buffet.

He was born July 22, 1914, in LaGrange, Ill., the son of a railroader who later was to become executive vice president of the Association of American Railroads.

As a youngster he had a brief fling with electric trains. It was far from a passion, however, and he rapidly outgrew that phase.

He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1936 with a degree in transportation.

### Only One Way to Go

As for joining the bankrupt Rio Grande: "Well, it had no place to go but upward. And you could learn a lot in a situation like that."

He started as a track laborer, subsequently was named assistant foreman, inspector, roadmaster. There followed tours as assistant train master at Grand Junction, Helper, Salt Lake City, Provo, and then trainmaster at Grand Junction and Salt Lake City.

He was named vice president and general manager in 1956. Working up through the ranks, he developed many friends in the Rio Grande.

### Independence Needed

Now the "Lonesome Polecat" ("Some of the staff call me to my face") he's long since ended social ties in the organization.

The reason is that as president he prefers no liaison that could compromise his judgment or for that matter the judgment of his subordinates.

"They have to be independent enough to tell you what they really think, not merely what they think you want to hear."

In the early years, he had a difficult time delegating authority. "Now, if I don't delegate it, I'm not doing the job. And it shows you who is really good."

And it is a personal joy to the Lonesome Polecat to watch a subordinate gather strength and judgment under the pleasure and pains of responsibility.

Primarily an operations man, Mr. Aydelott since has evolved into a financial man — savvy with banks, bonds, stocks. Such knowledge was useful in the attempted takeover of Rio Grande stock a couple of years ago and more recently in the formation of a holding company which now is the principal holder of Rio Grande stock.

### But no Home Work

Earlier to work, than most of his staff, Mr. Aydelott refuses to take work home. ("That's my vacation time.") He is a tinkerer. He loves to take apart watches. "Some people give me their watches to fix") He was reasonably apt with television repair until the age of color. ("Then, I just gave up"). He mows his own lawn. He likes to read history.

He married his wife Jo in 1938. Sons and daughters include Steve, just back from duty in Korea as a military policeman; Mary, a Denver housewife, and Roger, warehouse foreman in Houston.



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# Tax Payments Soar at Deadline

*Provo Herald 30 Nov 1970*

Today was the last day for paying property taxes throughout the state, and Utah County taxpayers were lined up in front of the county treasurer's

office most of the morning trying to beat the noon deadline.

By law, taxes, not paid by today become delinquent. No taxes will be accepted after

today until Dec. 20, according to Maurice C. Bird, county treasurer. On that date, delinquent lists will have been published by the printer. Tax-

payers will pay an additional two percent penalty plus \$1 per advertisement of the delinquent list on which they appear.

If taxes are not paid by Jan. 15, the county will hold a tax sale. A 50 cent charge for the tax sale and a 50 cent charge for the redemption certificate will be levied against the property, and eight per cent interest will be charged from Jan. 1. After four years, the property may be put up for public sale, according to Mr. Bird.

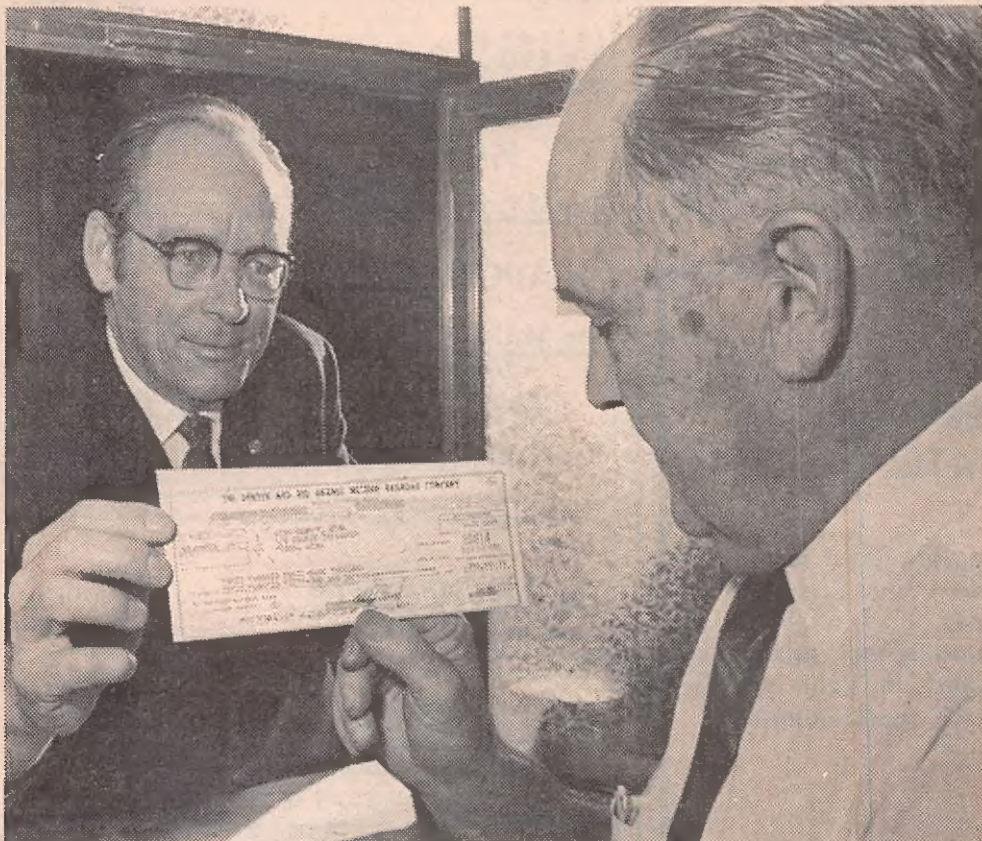
## Largest Taxpayers

Three of the county's four largest taxpayers had paid their taxes prior to 10 a.m. today. U.S. Steel is the largest taxpayer in the county, and this year paid, \$1,775,696.67. Second largest was Mountain Bell Telephone, which paid \$491,713.09. Third largest was Utah Power and Light, whose check had not been received by 10 a.m., but will pay \$462,691.34, according to Mr. Bird. The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad is the fourth largest taxpayer, and presented a check for \$349,352.70 to Mr. Bird today.

The four largest taxpayers contribute \$3,079,453.80 toward the county's total property tax income, \$14,031,026.96. That is about 20 percent of the total revenue from property taxes.

Those mailing taxes to the county treasurer must have their letters postmarked today.

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Herald Photo by Phil Shurtleff

UTAH COUNTY'S fourth largest taxpayer, the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad, paid its taxes before the noon deadline today. District Manager J. I. Hollandsworth, left, presents a check for

\$349,352.70 to the Utah County Treasurer, Maurice C. Bird. The railroad pays more taxes in Utah County than in any other county in the state. Salt Lake County receives \$285,136.94 in property tax from the company.

as soon as the training period is over," Mr. Wilson stated.

About 20 marketing students, in their second year at UTC, who qualified for the internship program began this fall to work under an employer while attending training classes every week.

### Bridge Gap

"The purpose of the program is to bridge the gap for the student between the school situation and actual on-the-job experience," Mr. Wilson stated. "Our goal is to make the student as employable as possible in the shortest possible period of time."

About five to seven more students will be ready in December to become interns. Mr. Wilson said that a typical

in December, he will have completed a long list of marketing and business classes during his first year at UTC. He will begin in the classroom where Mr. Wilson will advise him on the types of jobs available and will tell him and his classmates what is expected of them.

Then, he and two other classmates will be sent for interviews with a sponsor-employer, and the employer will chose between them. If our subject is given the nod, he begins to work on a part-time basis.

The employer's roll is to advise the student while he is on the job, and then to confer with Mr. Wilson on the student's progress.

### AL GIFT PROBLEM??

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Any employer who wishes to participate in the program may contact Mr. Wilson at UTC for full details.

ches committees, winter water hazards and water safety programs for 1971. A film of water safety, "From Where Sit," will also be shown, according to L. Ted Menlove, secretary of the council.

## REMODELING SPECIALS

Sat. Nov. 28th-Sun. 29th & Mon. 30th

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**\$6<sup>95</sup>**

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HOSE**

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